

Unofficial User's Guide to Interfacing FAST with OrcaFlex

This document describes the process to couple OrcaFlex with FAST. The FASTORCA.exe, FASTORCA.bat and DFORRT.dll files should be downloaded and saved on your computer before constructing the model. Installation of FASTORCA.exe should follow the same extraction process outlines in Buhl [1]. The available FASTORCA.exe executable is precompiled to interface with OrcaFlex; therefore no further actions, other than constructing the wind turbine model in OrcaFlex and including light modifications to the FAST input files, is needed to proceed with the modeling. The modifications needed in FAST version v7.00.01a-bjj to produce the FASTORCA.exe executable are explained in Section 4.

The source code modifications needed to couple FAST with OrcaFlex was developed by Antione Peiffer, of Principle Power, in collaboration with Orcina, the creators of OrcaFlex.

1. Modifying the FAST Input File

OrcaFlex replaces the HydroDyn module within FAST. HydroDyn is responsible for calculating the:

- Hydrodynamic force on the platform, which includes the radiation, diffraction added mass and quadratic drag terms
- Mooring line restoring forces via a quasi-static approximation methods using a closed-form continuous cable analytical model

OrcaFlex will replace these functionalities, and in order to accomplish this task, the FAST input files must be modified to reflect exchanged responsibilities, i.e., in other words, HydroDyn will be replaced by OrcaFlex. The unmodified FAST platform input file should appear similar to Figure 1. To inform FAST that HydroDyn is being replaced with OrcaFlex, `PtfmLdMod` is changed from `FltnngPtfmLd` to 1. All data below this line can then be discarded, if desired, since it is no longer needed by FAST (the discarded information will be included in the OrcaFlex model). The newly acquire platform input file should appear similar to Figure 2.

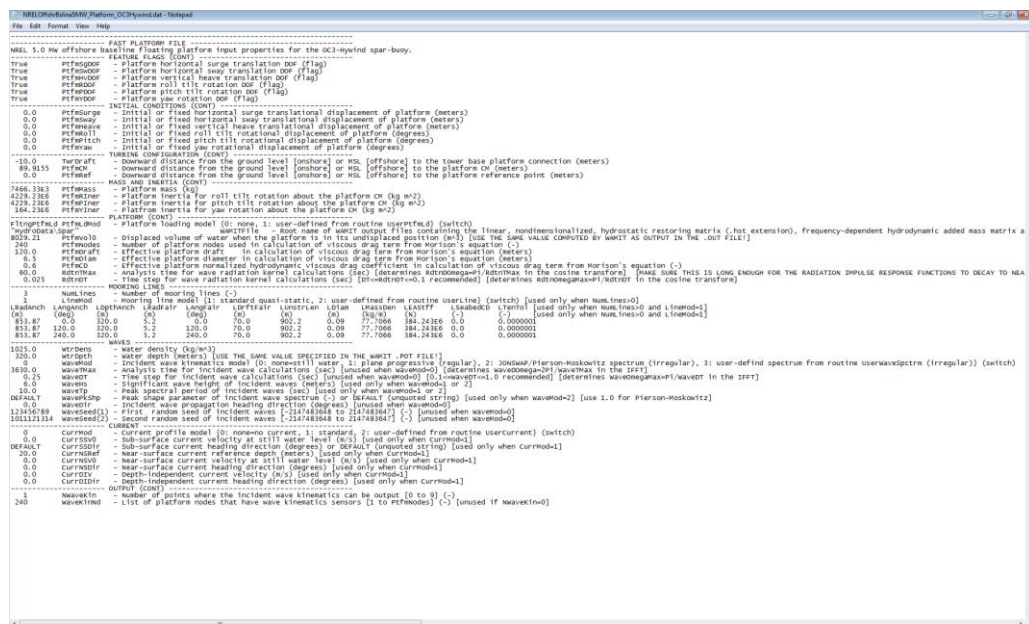


Figure 1: Original NRELOffshrBsline5MW Platform OC3Hywind.dat file.

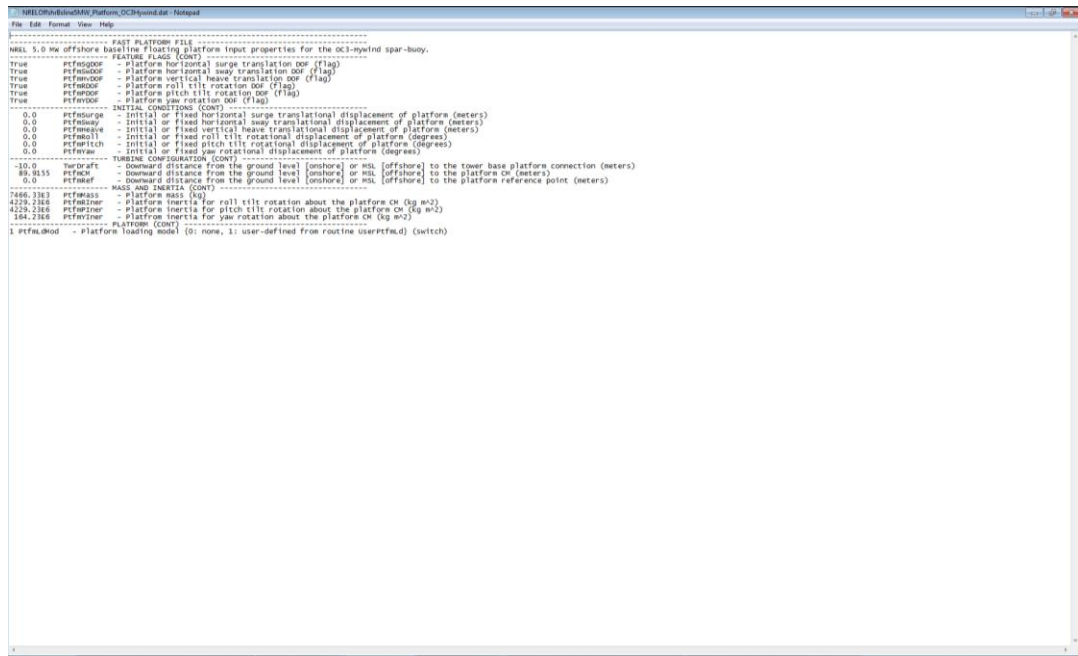


Figure 2: NRELOffshrbBslne5MW_Platform_OC3Hywind.dat after modification.

2. Constructing the OrcaFlex Model

The sample OrcaFlex simulation file NRELOffshrbBslne5MW_Floating_OC3Hywind.sim is pre-assembled and ready to be run with FASTORCA. The steps taken to arrive at this point are described in the following 16 steps.

1. Rename the OrcaFlex simulation file to have the identical name as the FAST input file. That is, <file_name>.sim and <file_name>.fst should read the same, except for their filename extensions. Both the <file_name>.sim and <file_name>.sim must be saved in the same folder.
2. In the Model Browser, double click on 'Variable Data'. In the 'Data Source Type' panel, select 'External Functions'. Add one 'Number of data sources', and rename 'ExternalFunction1' to 'ExtFn'. Select the FASTlinkDLL.dll file. For the 'Function Name', select ExtFn.
3. In the Model Browser, go to General -> Integration and Time Step -> Integration Method, and set this value to Implicit. Figure 4 graphically outlines steps 2-5.
4. Insert a new vessel. In the Model Browser, go to Vessel1 -> Calculation Integration and Time Step -> Integration Method -> Primary Motion, and check the Externally Calculated radio button. Rename Vessel1 to Platform. In the Superimpose Motion box, check None.
5. In the same frame, it is equally important to check the correct tabs in the Included Effects frame to incorporate the relevant external forces, as well as and those represented in the WAMIT input file. Wind Damping does not need to be selected because these forces are solved by the FAT executable, FASTORCA.exe. In the case of the NRELOffshrbBslne5MW_Floating_OC3Hywind.sim example, the following effects are included:
 - a. Applied Loads
 - b. Hydrodynamic Damping
 - c. Wave Loads (1st Order)
 - d. Added Mass and Damping

Note that the 2nd order wave drift loads are not included in the WAMIT input files we provide, and the Applied Loads value will be defined in a later section. The Vessel Initial Position is prescribed at this juncture, which presumably is (0,0,0). If not, this value must be modified in both OrcaFlex and in the FAST input file, NRELOffshrbBslne5MW_Platform_OC3Hywind.dat.

6. Click on the 'Primary Motions' tab, and under the 'Externally calculated primary motion:' box, select 'ExtFn'.
7. At this stage, I would suggest changing the vessel geometry to reflect an appearance representative of the system being modeled. This step is optional, but it will help with visualizing the mooring/vessel connection profile and vessel motions after the simulation is completed. To do so, proceed to the Vessel Type tab and modify the Vertices in the Drawing tab to add lines and vertices to the vessel.

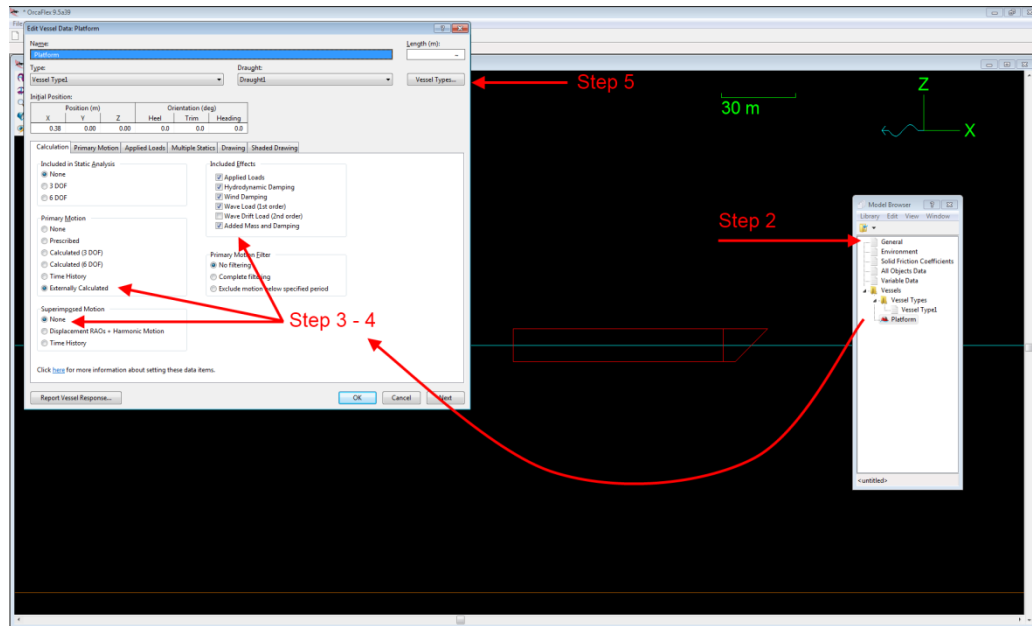


Figure 3

8. Vessel shape can be modified by changing the vertices location and line diameter. Figure 4 shows steps 6 - 8.
9. Next, on the bottom of the same frame, click on Import Hydrodynamic Data... and import the spar2.out WAMIT file
10. In the same frame, click on Structure and insert small values to give the platform insignificant inertia properties. We do this because the platform mass properties are defined in FAST.

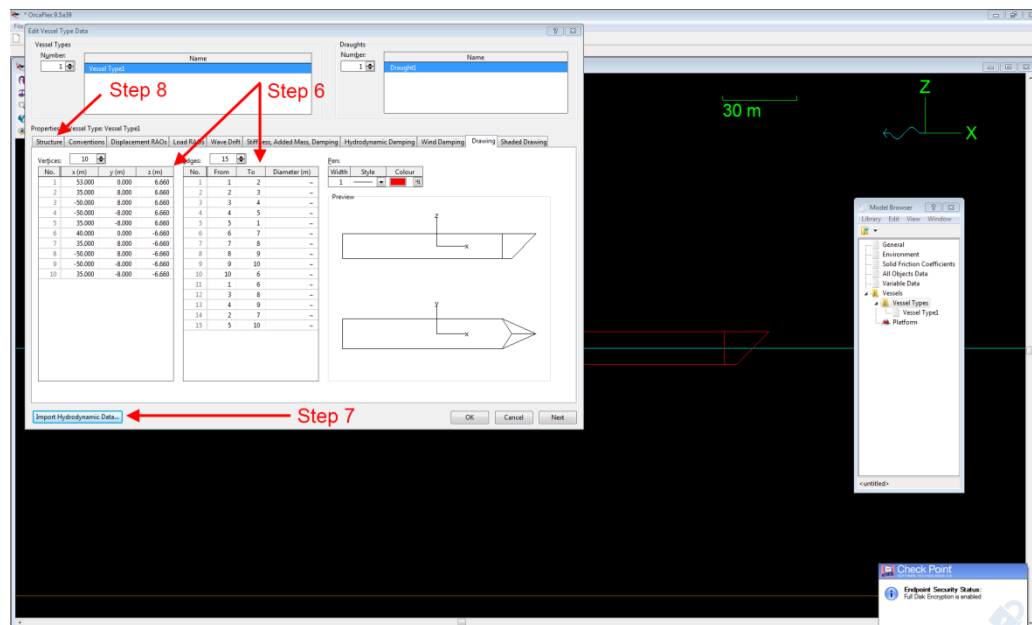


Figure 4

11. In the Model Browser, go to Environment -> Seabed, and prescribe the water depth. If desired, the wave properties can be given at this step. I usually set the wave input parameters as a last step, prior to performing the simulation.
12. The mooring can now be presented in the model. To do so, click on the New Line icon on the toolbar and add a mooring line to the model. Be sure to fix one end of the mooring line to the seabed and the opposite end to the platform. Figure 5 illustrates steps 10 – 12.
13. Next, give the Object Relative Position of the mooring lines relative to 1) the platform and 2) the seabed origin.
14. Under Line Type1 in the Model Browser, define the line attributes and properties.

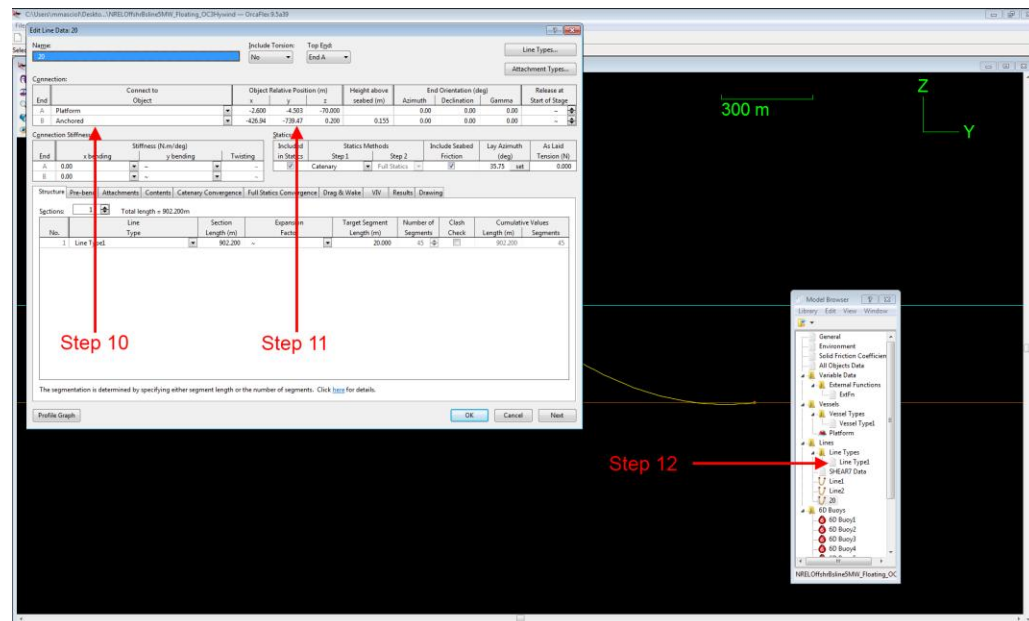


Figure 5

15. The next step in the assembly of the model is to include 6D buoys so that the quadratic drag term in Morison's equation is included as a force on the spar body. To do this, click on New 6D

Buoy on the tool bar. Double click on the buoy to modify its properties. We do the following (Figure 6):

- Click on Give Buoy negligible properties
- Set Type to Spar Buoy
- Set the Outer in the Diameters (m) box to an insignificant value
- On the Connection pull-down menu, select Platform
- Define the position of the buoy relative to the platform
- Next, select the Drag tab, and input 1) the cross-section area and 2) the quadratic drag coefficient
- These steps are repeated numerous times so the quadratic drag force is computed at several locations along the spar buoy, i.e., to discretize the viscous drag forces along the platform length
- Buoys are also added above the mean water line to capture fluid resistance at the splash zone

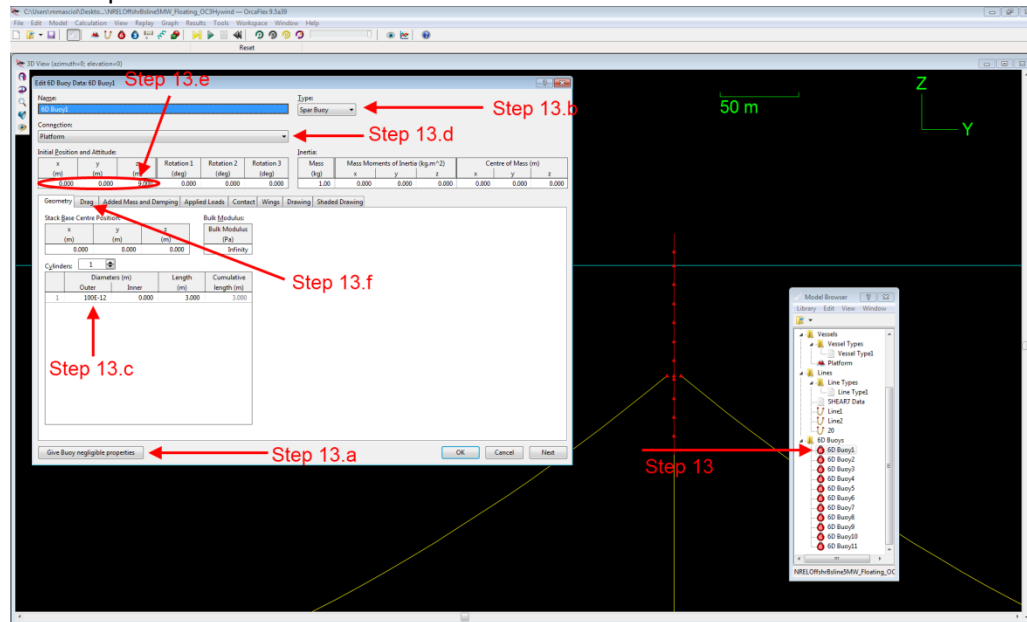


Figure 6

16. The final step needed is to prescribe and Applied Load in the Platform. This step is crucial to ensure the simulation begins at equilibrium. This step is formed as follows:

- The applied load in the OrcaFlex model is equal to $F_{applied} = T_0 + mg$, where T_0 is the sum of the mooring force in the z-direction, m is the total platform mass specified in FAST, and g is the gravitational constant equal to 9.80665 m/s^2 in OrcaFlex.
- The total platform mass, m , is specified in FAST. Since the total platform mass is inserted in FAST, the FAST Summary File `nrel offshore line 5mw floating oc3hywind.fsm` conveniently gives the mass in FAST. This is located on line 67 in the *.fsm file, denoted as "Mass Incl. Platform". The value reported is 8,066,048 kg for the OC3 Hywind spar.
- The total vertical pretension, T_0 , should be gathered from OrcaFlex after performing the static equilibrium test. This test is done by double clicking on Platform in the Model Browser, select Calculation -> Included in Static Analysis, and click the None radio button.
- Next, select Single Statics (F9) on the OrcaFlex toolbar
- Click Select Results (F5), and Summary Results under Result Type. The applied global mooring line loads in the vertical direction is:

$$T_1 = 536,265.1185 \text{ N}$$

$$T_2 = 536,243.5926 \text{ N}$$

$$T_3 = 536,047.4308 \text{ N}$$

- The sum of T_1 , T_2 , and T_3 is equal to T_0 . The applied force calculated is $F_{applied} = 80,709,464 \text{ N}$.
- To apply this load on the platform, so to the Model Browser, double click on Platform -> Applied Loads, and give the value for $F_{applied} = 80,709,464 \text{ N}$ in the Z-direction.

3. Simulate

Before running the simulation, be sure to select an appropriate time step value in both FAST and OrcaFlex. Also, ensure the proper wind turbine initial start-up conditions are selected; otherwise the simulation may become unstable. The simulation is called in FAST. Open a command prompt go to the folder where all the simulation files are housed. At the command prompt, type:

```
FASTORCA NRELOffshrbBslne5MW_Floating_OC3Hywind.fst
```

The simulation will run in FAST. Once it is completed, open the OrcaFlex simulation file, <file_name>.sim, and obtain the results.

4. FAST Modifications

The modifications presented here were originally developed by Orcina, the creators of OrcaFlex, and Antione Peiffer of Principle Power. The following four modifications are needed in FAST v7.00.01a-bjj in order to successfully use the FASTlink DLL.

1. Include the following in MODULE General in FAST_Mods.f90

```
! Add the following lines in the module "General" of FAST_Mods.f90
! =====
INTEGER(4)          :: LenDirRoot
INTEGER(4)          :: IniUserPtfmLd=0
! =====
```

2. Include the following in after CALL GetRoot(PriFile, RootName) in FAST_IO.f90

```
! FAST_IO.f90
! =====
LenDirRoot=LEN_TRIM(DirRoot) !OrcaFlex
! =====
```

3. Include the following BeginOrcaFlex subroutine in UserSubs_forBladedDLL.f90

```
! Add this BeginOrcaFlex subroutine in UserSubs.f90
! Routine to obtain the right directory for OrcaFlex
! =====
SUBROUTINE BeginOrcaFlex (DirRoot2)
  USE General
  IMPLICIT NONE
  CHARACTER(LEN=LenDirRoot+1), INTENT(OUT) :: DirRoot2
  DirRoot2=TRIM (DirRoot)//CHAR(0)
  RETURN
END SUBROUTINE BeginOrcaFlex
! =====
```

4. Include the following UserPtfmLd subroutine in UserSubs_forBladedDLL.f90

```
! Add this UserPtfmLd subroutine in UserSubs.f90
SUBROUTINE UserPtfmLd ( X, XD, ZTime, DirRoot, PtfmAM, PtfmFt )
  ! ===== NREL documentation of the FAST requirements for this routine =====
```

```

! This is a dummy routine for holding the place of a user-specified
! platform loading model. Modify this code to create your own model.
! The local variables and associated calculations below provide a
! template for making this user-specified platform loading model
! include linear 6x6 damping and stiffness matrices. These are
! provided as an example only and can be modified or deleted as
! desired by the user without detriment to the interface (i.e., they
! are not necessary for the interface).

! The platform loads returned by this routine should contain contributions
! from any external load acting on the platform other than loads
! transmitted from the wind turbine. For example, these loads should
! contain contributions from foundation stiffness and damping [not
! floating] or mooring line restoring and damping [floating], as well as
! hydrostatic and hydrodynamic contributions [offshore]. The platform
! loads will be applied on the platform at the instantaneous platform
! reference position within FAST and ADAMS.

! This routine assumes that the platform loads are transmitted through a
! medium like soil [foundation] and/or water [offshore], so that added
! mass effects are important. Consequently, the routine assumes that the
! total platform load can be written as:
!
! PtfmF(i) = SUM( -PtfmAM(i,j)*XDD(j), j=1,2,...,6) + PtfmFt(i) for i=1,2,...,6
!
! where,
!   PtfmF(i) = the i'th component of the total load applied on the
!               platform; positive in the direction of positive motion of
!               the i'th DOF of the platform
!   PtfmAM(i,j) = the (i,j) component of the platform added mass matrix
!                   (output by this routine)
!   XDD(j) = the j'th component of the platform acceleration vector
!   PtfmFt(i) = the i'th component of the portion of the platform load
!               associated with everything but the added mass effects;
!               positive in the direction of positive motion of the i'th
!               DOF of the platform (output by this routine)

! The order of indices in all arrays passed to and from this routine is as
! follows:
!   1 = Platform surge / xi-component of platform translation (internal DOF index = DOF_Sg)
!   3 = Platform sway / yi-component of platform translation (internal DOF index = DOF_Sw)
!   3 = Platform heave / zi-component of platform translation (internal DOF index = DOF_Hv)
!   4 = Platform roll / xi-component of platform rotation (internal DOF index = DOF_R )
!   5 = Platform pitch / yi-component of platform rotation (internal DOF index = DOF_P )
!   6 = Platform yaw / zi-component of platform rotation (internal DOF index = DOF_Y )

! NOTE: The added mass matrix returned by this routine, PtfmAM, must be
! symmetric. FAST and ADAMS will abort otherwise.
!
! Please also note that the hydrostatic restoring contribution to the
! hydrodynamic force returned by this routine should not contain the
! effects of body weight, as is often done in classical marine
! hydrodynamics. The effects of body weight are included within FAST
! and ADAMS.
! ===== End of NREL documentation of the FAST requirements for this routine =====

USE Precision
!USE Output
USE SimCont, ONLY: DT, TMAX
USE General, ONLY: IniUserPtfmLd, LenDirRoot

IMPLICIT NONE

! Passed Variables:
! Platform added mass matrix, kg, kg-m, kg-m^2
REAL(ReK1), INTENT(OUT) :: PtfmAM(6,6)
! The 3 components of the portion of the platform force (in N) acting at the platform reference
! and the 3 components of the portion of the platform moment (in N-m) acting at the platform reference
! associated with everything but the added-mass effects; positive forces are in the direction of motion.
REAL(ReK1), INTENT(OUT) :: PtfmFt(6)
! The 3 components of the translational displacement (in m) of the platform reference
! and the 3 components of the rotational displacement (in radians) of the platform, relative to the inertial frame.
REAL(ReK1), INTENT(IN) :: X(6)
! The 3 components of the translational velocity (in m/s) of the platform reference
! and the 3 components of the rotational (angular) velocity (in radians/s) of the platform, relative to the inertial frame.
REAL(ReK1), INTENT(IN) :: XD(6)
! Current simulation time, sec.
REAL(ReK1), INTENT(IN) :: ZTime
! The name of the root file including the full path to the current working directory. This may be useful if you want
! this routine to write a permanent record of what it does to be stored with the simulation results: the results should
! be stored in a file whose name (including path) is generated by appending any suitable extension to DirRoot.
CHARACTER(1024), INTENT(IN) :: DirRoot
! Local Variables:
INTEGER :: I,J
CHARACTER(Len=LenDirRoot+1) :: DirRoot2

!-----!-----
INTERFACE

!1)
SUBROUTINE OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd( X_, XD_, ZTime_, DirRoot_, PtfmAM_, PtfmFt_)
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES STDCALL::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES ALIAS:'OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd@24'::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES DLLIMPORT::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd

! The name of the root file including the full path to the current working directory.
! This may be useful if you want this routine to write a permanent record of what it does to be stored with the simulation results:
! the results should be stored in a file whose name (including path) is generated by appending any suitable extension to DirRoot.

```

```

CHARACTER(LEN=*) , INTENT(IN ) :: DirRoot_
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES REFERENCE::DirRoot_

! The 3 components of the translational displacement (in m) of the platform reference
! and the 3 components of the rotational displacement (in radians) of the platform, relative to the inertial frame.
REAL(4), INTENT(IN ) :: X_ (6)
! The 3 components of the translational velocity (in m/s) of the platform reference
! and the 3 components of the rotational (angular) velocity (in radians/s) of the platform, relative to the inertial frame.
REAL(4), INTENT(IN ) :: XD_ (6)
! Current simulation time, in seconds
REAL(4), INTENT(IN ) :: ZTime_
! Platform added mass matrix, kg, kg-m, kg-m^2.
REAL(4), INTENT(OUT) :: PtfmAM_ (6,6)
! The 3 components of the portion of the platform force (in N) acting at the platform reference
! and the 3 components of the portion of the platform moment (in N-m) acting at the platform reference,
! associated with everything but the added-mass effects. Positive forces are in the direction of motion.
REAL(4), INTENT(OUT) :: PtfmFt_ (6)

END SUBROUTINE OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd

!2)
SUBROUTINE OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise( DT_, TMax_)
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES STDCALL::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES ALIAS:'_OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise@8'::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES DLLIMPORT::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise

! Integration time step
REAL(4), INTENT(IN ) :: DT_
! Total run time
REAL(4), INTENT(IN ) :: Tmax_

END SUBROUTINE OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise

!3)
SUBROUTINE OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES STDCALL::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES ALIAS:'_OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise@0'::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise
!DEC$ ATTRIBUTES DLLIMPORT::OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise
END SUBROUTINE OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise

END INTERFACE
!-----|-----

!Get DirRoot2
CALL BeginOrcaFlex (DirRoot2)

IF (Ztime==0) THEN
IF (IniUserPtfmLd==0) THEN
CALL OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdInitialise( DT, TMax)
IniUserPtfmLd=1
ENDIF
ENDIF

IF (IniUserPtfmLd==1) THEN
! @change
!X(3) = X(3) + 87.6
!WRITE(*,*) X(1) ," " , X(2) , " " , X(3)
CALL OrcaFlexUserPtfmLd( X, XD, ZTime, DirRoot2, PtfmAM, PtfmFt)
END IF

IF (Ztime==TMax) THEN
IF (IniUserPtfmLd==1) THEN
CALL OrcaFlexUserPtfmLdFinalise
IniUserPtfmLd=2
ENDIF
ENDIF

RETURN

END SUBROUTINE UserPtfmLd

```

1. Buhl, Jr. M.L. "Installing NWTC Design Codes on PCs Running Windows NT®." National Renewable Energy Laboratory, <<http://wind.nrel.gov/designcodes/papers/setup.pdf>>. Last modified Dec. 22, 2000; accessed April 5, 2002. NREL/EP-500-29384. Golden, Colorado.